

Amendments to the Specification:

Please replace the paragraph on page 13, lines 3-16 (as previously amended) with the following amended paragraph:

Alternatively, the stiffening member may be secured to the anchoring member 36. Referring to FIGURE 6c, the distal end of a stiffening member, such as stiffening member 44 (described below), may be secured to the anchoring member 36 and an anti-tear device 41 may be secured to the proximal end of the stiffening member. The anti-tear device 41, which is located within the elongate body distal portion 24a and which includes a slot 43 through which the steering wire distal portion 28 passes, spreads the forces associated with the bending of the stiffening member 44 over a greater surface area, thereby preventing the bending member from tearing through the elongate body distal portion. In other words, the anti-tear device 41 ~~performs~~ is a means for performing the function of increasing the surface area of the elongate body distal portion 24a over which the force is applied when the stiffening member 44 is bent to prevent the stiffening member from tearing through the elongate body. A suitable anti-tear device may be constructed by forming the slot 43 in a hypotube.